

Special School Offer

Workshops on Wednesday, May 1

8:00 – 10:20 AM

Proactive School Security and Emergency Preparedness Planning

-Kenneth Trump, National School Safety and Security Services

In this two-hour workshop, learn about the latest trends, strategies, and hot topics on school security and emergency preparedness following the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings. Session topics will include recent school security proposals from the practical to the preposterous, "heightened security" strategies in times of tight budgets, assessing and managing student and external threats, common gaps found in school security assessments, and physical security components vs. the human element of security. The workshop will also discuss school relationships with first responders and community organizations, crisis team and school staff roles, preparing for drills (lockdowns, evacuations, shelter-in-place, student and staff tracking), physical facilities, reducing liability risks, enhancing community credibility, and school-community partnerships.

10:40 – 11:40 AM

Effectively Communicating School Security and Emergency Issues in a World on Digital Media Steroids

-Ellen Miller, Media Consultant for National School Safety and Security Services

Do your school administrators duck and cover when they see a reporter coming? What would you do with dozens or hundreds of reporters, cameras, and TV news trucks in front of your school? Facebook threats, bomb threats sent through international proxy servers, rampant text messages of a rumored school shooting, parental safety anxiety following high-profile school shootings, and the politicizing of school safety are creating major communications challenges for school administrators and communications leaders. This session will address effective strategies for helping school officials successfully communicate with the media during emergency incidents.

1:00 – 2:00 PM

The Paper Fortresses: The Reality Behind Public School Security

-David Thweatt, Superintendent at Harrold Intermediate School District (ISD) in Texas

This session will address one of the most pressing needs of our public schools in America: keeping our children from being massacred in copy-cat school shootings. There are many who believe that we can prevent shootings from occurring by simply locking doors or producing and practicing exotic and elaborate emergency drills. David Thweatt believes that all of these procedures, while necessary and appropriate, fall short of solving the problem and give false hope to those who believe in their effectiveness. He will present and argue for one of the most novel paradigm shifts in recent educational security philosophy. Thrust into the limelight in August of 2008, Thweatt managed to effectively defend his school's employee's concealed handgun policy. When the issue resurfaced after the Newtown, Connecticut, school shooting, Harrold ISD's Guardian Plan, which was implemented in October 2007, was heralded as a common-sense approach to protecting America's school children. Thweatt will explain his district's solution and present the reasoning behind it.

2:20 – 3:20 PM

Mental Health and Schools: Lessons from the Front Lines of School Crises for Prevention and Intervention

-Dr. Allen Poland, Nova Southeastern University

The incidence of school violence, suicide, and traumatic events in general requires that schools and communities be prepared to respond to these events. This presentation will help schools and communities develop and enhance their knowledge and understanding of children's mental health. Participants will learn effective strategies to improve mental health services for students and how to prevent tragedies from happening. In addition, practical strategies will be outlined to provide mental health services for staff and students in the aftermath of a tragedy.

3:40 – 4:40 PM

School Security: Do you have a Holistic (and Realistic) Approach?

-Mike Moll, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

This presentation will focus on the best practice examples of a comprehensive school security plan that addresses policy, procedure, and physical security measures to ensure a safe and secure facility. The participants will also be given the opportunity to learn what the U.S. Department of Homeland Security sees as excellent preventative and proactive measures for school security.